Discussion with Pakistan regarding casualties in Jammu and Kashmir

521. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons including para military forces killed as a result of attack by militants and Pak forces in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three months;

(b) whether the matter was taken up with the Government of Pakistan particularly the incident which resulted in the death of certain employees of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council; and

(c) if so, what was reaction of the Pakistani Government and the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) As per available information the number of civilian and security forces killed in Jammu and Kashmir, in the last three months are as follows:

Year 2001	Civilians Killed	Security Force personnel killed
August	121	43
September	75	63
October	77	57

(b) and (c) The issue of Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India has been taken up with the Pakistan authorities on several occasions including at the highest levels over the last decade. The October 1 attack by the Pakistan based Jaish-e-Muhammad on the Jammu and Kashmir State Assembly, was also taken up by Prime Minister during a telephonic conversation with President Pervez Musharraf on 8th October 2001. The Pakistan President condemned the act, emphasizing that he condemned all acts of terrorism in which civilians were killed. Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, Pakistan leaders routinely deny Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India.

Visit of Prime Minister's Principal Secretary to Bangladesh

522. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Principal Secretary, to the Prime Minister has recently visited Bangladesh;

(b) what were the issues discussed during the visit alongwith outcome thereof;

(c) whether outflow of refugees from Bangladesh to India has also figured in his discussions with the Government of Bangladesh;

(d) if so, what assurances were given by Bangladesh in this regard;

(e) whether review of the Ganga water treaty of 1996 was demanded by the Bangladesh Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) During a meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the issue of security of minority communities in Bangladesh was discussed. Government of Bangladesh reiterated that it was fully committed to the safety and security of all communities in Bangladesh.

The Ganges Water Treaty of 1996 provides for mandatory review of the sharing arrangements at five years' interval; the first review is due in December 2001 when both sides will exchange views.

Measures to boost bilateral trade and regional co-operation under SAARC were also discussed.

Harassment of Sikhs in America after WTC attacks

523.PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the World Trade Centre attacks, Sikhs in America were subjected to harassment and mistaken target;

(b) if so, the details of the affected Sikhs and other Indian citizens in America after the WTC attack;

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to safeguard the Sikhs and other Indian citizens in America and UK;

(d) whether any assurance has been given by the USA Government in this regard; and